STATE OF VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY VERMONT FORENSIC LABORATORY P.O. BOX 47 WATERBURY, VERMONT 05676-0047



TEL: 802•244•8788 FAX: 802•241•5557 E-MAIL: cjs0lab@dps.state.vt.us http://www.dps.state.vt.us/cjs/

VFL Testing of Detector Voltage as it Relates to Interference Detection: Update March 20, 2013

The DataMaster DMT is an infrared breath testing device designed to identify and quantify ethanol on the breath of individuals. It works on the basis of infrared absorption at specific wavelengths unique to ethanol. The DMT employs a Lead Selenide IR detector which is a photoconductive device that has sensitivity to IR in approximately the 2 to 5 micron range. The detector produces an output current proportional to the amount of IR energy incident on its surface. There are three filters within the DMT which filter the IR energy into specific and narrow regions. Those filters are centered at 3.44, 3.37 and 3.50 microns. These wavelengths allow for characterization of the absorption peak of ethanol in the 3.4 micron range where it has strong absorption of IR energy. The ratios between these three filters are unique to ethanol.

The detector voltage of the DMT is the DC output voltage of the detector processing circuitry. The voltage is typically viewed with the 3.44 micron filter (filter 1) in the optical path. When switching between the three filters, the detector voltage usually changes, though it is possible that there may be no difference in the reported voltages. The differences, if seen, are not due to the different wavelengths of the filters, but rather are due to the different characteristics of each filter's peak transmittance, half peak bandwidth and other variations of the transmittance characteristics of the individual filters.

The DC output voltage level of the detector ("detector voltage") is dependent on a number of conditions including detector sensitivity, IR source intensity, bias voltage level applied to the lead selenide, temperature of the detector as determined by the thermoelectric cooler, efficiency of the optical path through which the IR energy is transmitted (sample chamber), the peak transmittance and bandwidth of the IR filters and gain and offsets of the electronics processing the detector output current.

During instrument setup, a technician will adjust the parameters of the bias voltage level, TEC cooler level and IR source intensity per manufacturer's specifications such that the output DC voltage of the detector circuit is near zero volts when the 3.44 micron filter is in the optical path. Changes in the system components over time may cause the detector voltage to change from its original set value. Because of this, a zero baseline is established for each of the three wavelengths during the ambient zeroing process as part of every test sequence. A zero baseline is established for each of the three wavelengths as the voltage produced when each of the filters is inserted into the optical path is unique, as stated above. The DMT will zero the voltage so long as it is no more than approximately 1.500 volts, positive or negative, away from zero. If the voltage is within the allowable range for zeroing, the

process will go forward. If the voltage starting point is too far away from zero, the DMT will halt the test and produce an error message indicating that a filter will not zero.

The particular voltage level of the detector output has no bearing on the DMT's design or ability to identify interfering compounds in a breath or simulator sample. Interference detection is based on the ratio of absorption among the three filters. During calibration, a solution containing a known ethanol concentration (Ca) is analyzed by the instrument and normalized by dividing the known value (Ca) by the analyzed value resulting in the CAL. Furthermore, ratio calculations are determined based on the absorbance of ethanol at each of the three filters. These determinations, unique to ethanol, are compared to all subsequent analyses and must meet the criteria programmed in the DMT to qualify the sample as free of interfering substances. The starting detector voltages are not relevant so long as they are able to be zeroed at each of the three wavelengths, just as it had been during the calibration process.

During the predeployment testing of the DMT instruments in 2006-2009, there were observations made of certain instruments not performing well during interference testing. It was also noted that on some of these instruments, the detector voltage had drifted to levels above 300mV. An incorrect correlation was assumed that this higher detector voltage was the cause of the poor interference detection of the instruments. This phenomenon of high voltage and poor performance has proven to be coincidental, not causational. It was noted that on many of these instruments, the detector was replaced due to short term instability problems. A detector that is unstable in the short term would change detector voltage by 30mV or more over the time between the ambient zeroing and subsequent analysis. This would cause errors such as interference being detected when no interfering compounds were present, failing to detect an interfering compound that was present, filter won't zero error, calibration check errors and more. There is also documentation from this predeployment testing that shows instruments with high detector voltages successfully identified interfering compounds.

DataMaster DMT 104509 was tested on 9/19/2011 against a solution of 0.01% vol/vol Acetone in 0.08 g/210L Ethanol. The detector voltage prior to the interference analysis was 0.029V at filter 1, 0.620V at filter 2 and 0.192V at filter 3 (see page 5). This instrument identified the interfering substance 10 out of 10 times (see page 6). Instrument 104509 was subsequently deployed to Ludlow Police Department. As observed on Routine Performance Check reports, the detector voltage steadily drifted to \sim 0.600V. The unit was removed from the field on 6/27/2012. On 6/28/12 the detector voltage was checked by performing a diagnostic test. This test indicated that the voltage for filter 1 was 0.711V, 1.233V for filter 2 and 0.823V for filter 3 (see page 7). The instrument was tested against a solution of 0.01% vol/vol Acetone in 0.08 g/210L Ethanol. The instrument was able to ambient zero prior to each sampling indicating that none of the three filter readings were beyond the limitations of the instrument. The unit again reported interference detected 10 out of 10 times (see page 8). Subsequent to the interference test, another diagnostic test was completed to show that the voltages had not changed significantly (see page 9). In reviewing the filter results for both interference tests, the filter 2 readings (the wavelength at which acetone has a stronger absorption) were not significantly different.

DataMaster DMT 100161 was tested on 8/22/2011 against a solution of 0.01% vol/vol Acetone in 0.08 g/210L Ethanol. The detector voltage prior to the interferent analysis was 0.004V at filter 1, 0.314V at filter 2 and 0.506V at filter 3 (see page 10). The instrument was able to ambient zero prior to each sampling indicating that none of the three filter readings were beyond the limitations of the instrument. The instrument reported interference detected 10 out of 10 times (see page 11). At the end of January 2013, it was decided that this instrument would be removed from the field to investigate the effect of detector voltage in the negative direction on the ability to detect interfering compounds. A diagnostic test was performed at the agency on 1/31/2013 prior to the unit being removed from service. The voltages at that time were -0.302V for filter 1, 0.034V for filter 2, and 0.235V at filter 3 (see page 12). A second diagnostic test was performed at VFL on 2/4/2013 which showed similar voltages (see page 13). The instrument was then tested using a 0.01% vol/vol Acetone in 0.079 g/210L Ethanol solution. The first attempt was inadvertently performed using a bad lot of solution (see page 14). The second attempt using lot #12-85-08A1 showed that on an accuracy and precision test, the instrument appropriately reported interference detected 10 out of 10 times (see page 15). Another diagnostic test was run subsequent to the interferent analysis to demonstrate that the voltages had not been changed (see page 16).

These two units exemplify the characteristics of the instrument: detector voltage drift over the long term has no impact on an instrument's ability to detect interfering compounds.

Another concern that has been voiced is whether or not an instrument can properly identify an interfering compound when the instrument is intermittently reporting "interference" while testing interferent-free solutions. Occasionally there may be a problem or malfunction with an instrument such that the filter results are not what are expected for ethanol and "interference" is reported when in fact the sample is known to only contain ethanol. There are numerous conditions within the instrument that can cause this occurrence, however the software in the unit is designed as a fail-safe. If the filter readings are not what are expected for ethanol, then the instrument will report "interference". This is an example of the instrument working properly, as it will only report quantified ethanol results when all quality control checks (including filter ratios) are passing.

During the months of November and December of 2012, DataMaster DMT 104709 was being used as a training instrument at VFL. During accuracy and precision tests using 0.1 Ethanol simulator solution, the instrument occasionally reported "interference" on some of the replicates. Upon inspection of the filter readings, the reports document that the detector reading at filter 3 was occasionally beyond the acceptable limits for an ethanol-free sample, thus causing the error.

The instrument was recalibrated on 12/18/2012; however the error reoccurred on the subsequent calibration check test. Using this instrument with a known problem, three solutions containing interfering compounds were analyzed. An accuracy and precision check was performed using a 0.01% vol/vol Acetone in 0.08g/210L Ethanol solution (Lot #12-81-081A1), a 0.04% vol/vol Methanol in 0.08g/210L Ethanol solution (Lot #12-63-080M), and a 0.04% vol/vol Isopropanol in 0.08g/210L Ethanol solution (Lot #12-63-080I). All records are included for testing on this instrument; see pages 17-25. The instrument appropriately identified the solutions as containing an interferent 100% of the time.

Having an error with the instrument whereby "interference" is reported on an interferent-free sample does not indicate that the instrument fails to comply with interference detection standards required by Rule for the use of the DataMaster in evidential breath testing. When the DMT reports "interference", it is not saying that it definitively identified an interfering compound. What it is saying is that it did not see the appropriate ratios to be able to report an ethanol result. The reporting of "interference" when it is known that there is not an interferent present could indicate that there may be something amiss with the unit which may require repair. However, if the problem is manifesting in a way which would potentially affect the ethanol result, an error will be identified and appropriately reported. Therefore, if an interferent is present on a sample, the unit will still appropriately report "interference". The DataMaster DMT is designed as a fail-safe; in order to proceed with a test and report an ethanol result, the instrument must meet all internal and external quality control checks.

DataMaster DMT: 104509

Location: Calibration Date:

Certification Date: Installation Date:

Test Date: 09/19/2011 Test Time: 09:24:51

VERSIONS DMT: 1.00 PIC: 2.05 Modem: 2.1 Questions: 2.0

TEMPERATURES

Sample Chamber = 49.2°C Breath Tube = 46.6°C Digital Sim = 33.5°C

SETTINGS

Lamp Voltage = 1.66 V Cooler Voltage = 1.67 V Bias Voltage = 80 V Chopper Freq = 533 Hz

PUMP INFO

Flow Rate = 6.097 L/M

DETECTOR INFO

PUMP ON OFF MAX(V) 0.0280 0.0307 MIN(V) 0.0266 0.0291

FILTER INFO

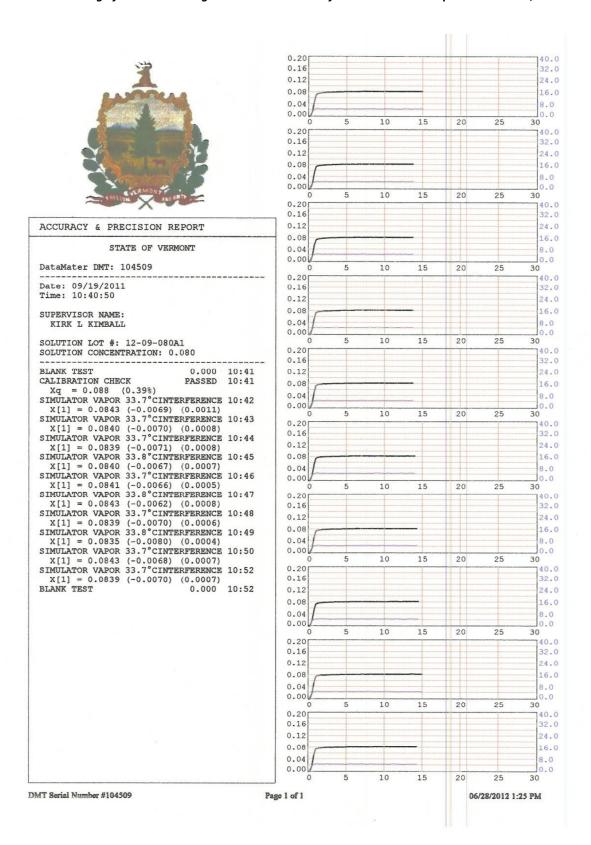
Filter 1 0.029 Zero = true Filter 2 0.620 Zero = true Filter 3 0.192 Zero = true

CALIBRATION CHECK Xq = 0.088 0.39%

DMT Serial Number #104509

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06/28/2012 1:27 PM



DataMaster DMT:104509

Location: Ludlow PD
Calibration Date: 09/19/2011
Certification Date: 09/28/2011
Installation Date: 09/28/2011
Test Date: 06/28/2012
Test Time: 13:01:38



VERSIONS DMT: 1.01 PIC: 2.05 Modem: 2.2 Questions: 2.0

TEMPERATURES

Sample Chamber = 48.7°C Breath Tube = 45.6°C Digital Sim = 0.0°C

SETTINGS
Lamp Voltage = 1.66 V
Cooler Voltage = 1.67 V
Bias Voltage = 80 V
Chopper Freq = 526 Hz

PUMP INFO Flow Rate = 5.795 L/M

DETECTOR INFO
PUMP ON OFF
MAX(V) 0.7092 0.7128
MIN(V) 0.7071 0.7110

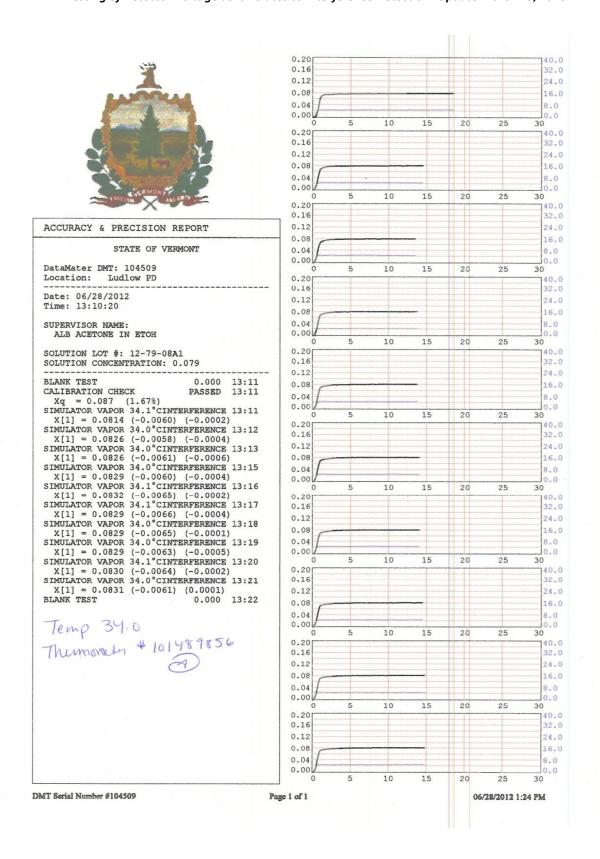
FILTER INFO
Filter 1 0.711 Zero = true
Filter 2 1.233 Zero = true
Filter 3 0.823 Zero = true

CALIBRATION CHECK Xq = 0.087 2.06%

DMT Serial Number #104509

Page 1 of 1

06/28/2012 1:02 PM



DataMaster DMT:104509 Location: Ludlow PD Calibration Date: 09/19/2011 Certification Date: 09/19/2011 Installation Date: 09/28/2011 Test Date: 06/28/2012 Test Time: 13:25:33



VERSIONS DMT: 1.01 PIC: 2.05 Modem: 2.2 Questions: 2.0

TEMPERATURES

Sample Chamber = 49.2°C Breath Tube = 46.2°C Digital Sim = 34.0°C

Lamp Voltage = 1.66 V Cooler Voltage = 1.67 V Bias Voltage = 80 V Chopper Freq = 530 Hz

PUMP INFO Flow Rate = 5.998 L/M

DETECTOR INFO

PUMP ON OFF MAX(V) 0.6774 0.6799 MIN(V) 0.6758 0.6781

FILTER INFO

Filter 1 0.679 Zero = true Filter 2 1.200 Zero = true Filter 3 0.809 Zero = true

CALIBRATION CHECK Xq = 0.087 1.57%

DMT Serial Number #104509

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06/28/2012 1:26 PM

DataMaster DMT:100161

Location:

Calibration Date: 08/22/2011

Certification Date: Installation Date:

Test Date: 08/22/2011 Test Time: 07:49:42

VERSIONS DMT: 1.00 PIC: 2.05

Modem: 2.1 Questions: 2.0

TEMPERATURES

Sample Chamber = 49.2°C Breath Tube = 47.8°C Digital Sim = 34.2°C

SETTINGS

Lamp Voltage = 1.79 V Cooler Voltage = 1.77 V
Bias Voltage = 80 V
Chopper Freq = 533 Hz

PUMP INFO

Flow Rate = 5.485 L/M

DETECTOR INFO

PUMP ON OFF MAX(V) 0.0030 0.0049 MIN(V) 0.0006 0.0035

FILTER INFO
Filter 1 0.004 Zero = true
Filter 2 0.314 Zero = true
Filter 3 0.506 Zero = true

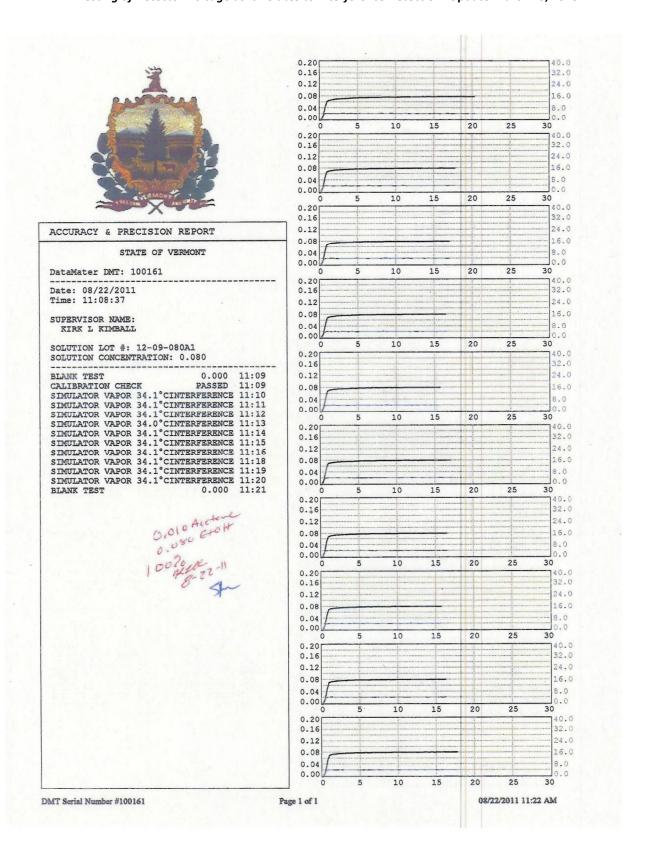
CALIBRATION CHECK Xq = 0.086 0.00%

DMT Serial Number #100161

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08/22/2011 7:52 AM





DataMaster DMT:100161

Location: Brattleboro VSP
Calibration Date: 08/22/2011
Certification Date: 08/22/2011
Installation Date: 09/02/2011
Test Date: 01/31/2013
Test Time: 12:35:12



VERSIONS DMT: 1.01 PIC: 2.05 Modem: 2.4 Questions: 2.1

TEMPERATURES

Sample Chamber = 49.2°C Breath Tube = 47.6°C Digital Sim = 34.0°C

SETTINGS

Lamp Voltage = 1.79 V Cooler Voltage = 1.77 V Bias Voltage = 80 V Chopper Freq = 539 Hz

PUMP INFO

Flow Rate = 5.449 L/M

DETECTOR INFO

PUMP ON OFF
MAX(V) -0.3026 -0.3000
MIN(V) -0.3043 -0.3012

FILTER INFO

Filter 1 -0.302 Zero = true Filter 2 0.034 Zero = true Filter 3 0.235 Zero = true

CALIBRATION CHECK Xq = 0.086 0.10%

DMT Scrial Number #100161

Page 2 of 12 RCD

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01/31/2013 12:36 PM

DataMaster DMT:100161

Location: Brattleboro VSP

Calibration Date: 08/22/2011 Certification Date: 08/22/2011

Installation Date: 09/02/2011

Test Date: 02/04/2013

Test Time: 08:45:57



VERSIONS DMT: 1.01 PIC: 2.05 Modem: 2.4 Questions: 2.1

TEMPERATURES

Sample Chamber = 48.7°C Breath Tube = 46.7°C Digital Sim = 33.9°C

SETTINGS
Lamp Voltage = 1.79 V
Cooler Voltage = 1.77 V
Bias Voltage = 80 V
Chopper Freq = 531 Hz

PUMP INFO Flow Rate = 5.578 L/M

DETECTOR INFO

PUMP ON MAX(V) -0.2449 MIN(V) -0.2463 OFF -0.2413 -0.2427

FILTER INFO Filter 1 -0.242 Zero = true Filter 2 0.088 Zero = true Filter 3 0.277 Zero = true

CALIBRATION CHECK Mg - 0.085 8.614

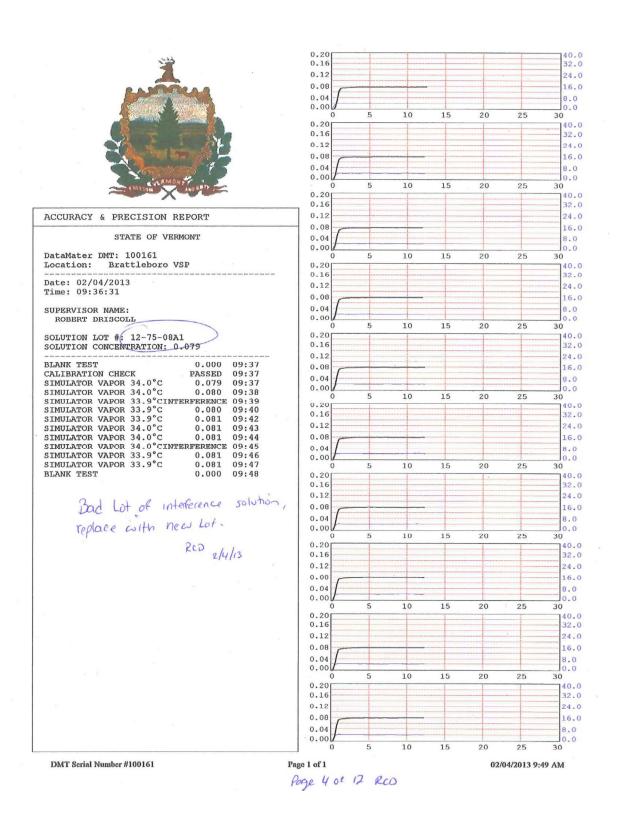
DMT Scrial Number #100161

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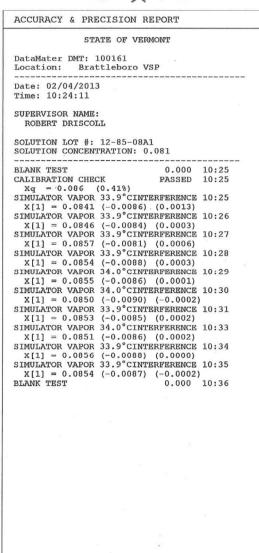
Page 1 of 1

02/04/2013 8:47 AM

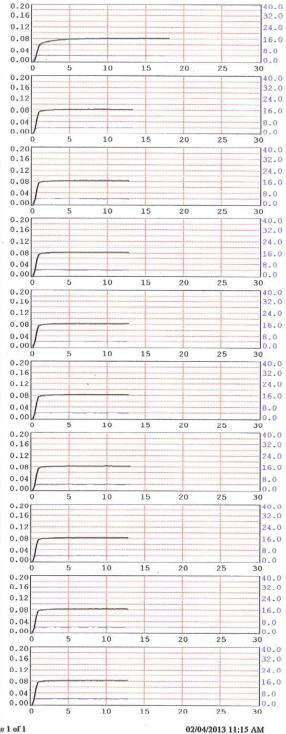
Page **13** of **25**







DMT Serial Number #100161



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DataMaster DMT: 100161

Location: Brattleboro VSP

Calibration Date: 08/22/2011 Certification Date: 08/22/2011 Installation Date: 09/02/2011 Test Date: 02/04/2013

10:38:04



VERSIONS DMT: 1.01 PIC: 2.05 Modem: 2.4 Questions: 2.1

Test Time:

TEMPERATURES

Sample Chamber = 48.7°C Breath Tube = 45.6°C Digital Sim = 33.8°C

SETTINGS
Lamp Voltage = 1.79 V
Cooler Voltage = 1.77 V
Bias Voltage = 80 V
Chopper Freq = 534 Hz

PUMP INFO

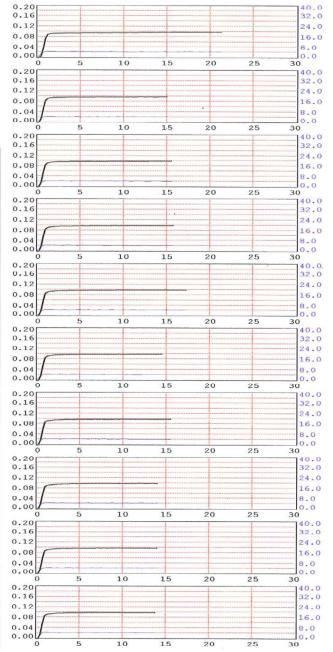
E1988. 1870 F11987 1 -0.254 Pepo - 1888 F11987 2 0.572 Repo - 1888 F1188 3 U.278 Repo - 1888

DMT Serial Number #100161

Page 1 of 1 Page 9 of 12 RCD 02/04/2013 10:41 AM



ACCURACY & PRECISION REPORT STATE OF VERMONT DataMater DMT: 104709 Location: vdhl Date: 11/29/2012 Time: 08:32:47 SUPERVISOR NAME: ROBERT DRISCOLL SOLUTION LOT #: 12-84-100 SOLUTION CONCENTRATION: 0.101 0.000 PASSED BLANK TEST CALIBRATION CHECK 08:33 CALIBRATION CHECK Xq = 0.078 (0.11%) SIMULATOR VAPOR 33.9°C X[1] = 0.0998 (0.0009) (0.0019) SIMULATOR VAPOR 33.9°C X[1] = 0.0993 (0.0001) (0.0012) SIMULATOR VAPOR 33.9°C 0.100 08:34 08:35 08:36 (0.0002) (0.0011) 33.9°CINTERFERENCE 08:37 X[1] = 0.1002 SIMULATOR VAPOR SIMULATOR VAPOR 33.9°CIN: X[1] = 0.1003 (-0.0001) SIMULATOR VAPOR 33.9°C X[1] = 0.1009 (0.0004) SIMULATOR VAPOR 33.9°C X[1] = 0.1005 (0.0001) SIMULATOR VAPOR 33.9°C X[1] = 0.1005 (0.0003) SIMULATOR VAPOR 33.9°C (-0.0001) (-0.0391) 33.9°C 0.100 (0.0004) (0.0011) 08:38 33.9°C 0.100 (0.0001) (0.0009) 08:39 0.100 (0.0007) 0.100 08:40 08:42 X[1] = 0.1001 SIMULATOR VAPOR X[1] = 0.0997 (-0.0006) 33.9°C (0.0004)0.099 08:43 X[1] = 0.0997 (-0.0009) SIMULATOR VAPOR 34.0°C X[1] = 0.0995 (-0.0006) BLANK TEST (0.0013)0.099 08:44 08:45 0.000

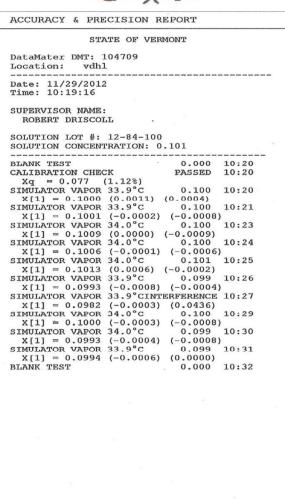


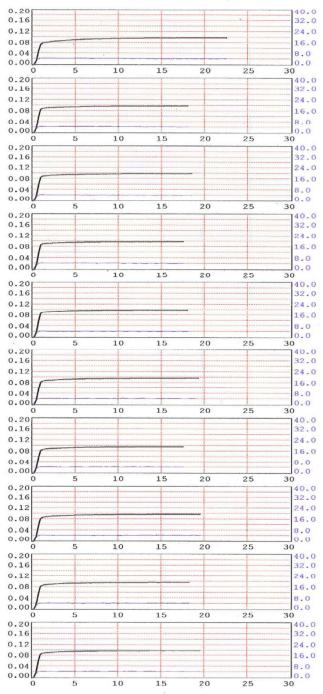
DMT Serial Number #104709

Page 1 of 1 TEST RUN IN TRAINING MODE

11/29/2012 10:35 AM







DMT Serial Number #104709

Page 1 of 1 TEST RUN IN TRAINING MODE

11/29/2012 10:34 AM

DataMaster DMT:104709 Location: vdhl

Calibration Date: 11/15/2011
Certification Date: 11/15/2011
Installation Date: 11/21/2011
Test Date: 12/17/2012
Test Time: 13:19:01



VERSIONS DMT: 1.01 PIC: 2.05 Modem: 2.4 Questions: 2.1

TEMPERATURES

Sample Chamber = 49.5°C Breath Tube = 48.1°C Digital Sim = 33.9°C

SETTINGS

Lamp Voltage = 1.75 V Cooler Voltage = 1.69 V Bias Voltage = 80 V Chopper Freq = 533 Hz

PUMP INFO Flow Rate = 5.780 L/M

DETECTOR INFO

PUMP ON OFF MAX(V) -0.1856 -0.1821 MIN(V) -0.1872 -0.1835

FILTER INFO

Filter 1 -0.183 Zero = true Filter 2 0.068 Zero = true Filter 3 -0.140 Zero = true

CALIBRATION CHECK

DMT Scrial Number #104709

Page 1 of 1 TEST RUN IN TRAINING MODE

12/17/2012 1:20 PM

CALIBRATION REPORT

DataMaster DMT: 104709 Calibration Date: 12/18/2012

Calibrated by:

ROBERT DRISCOLL

12-71-100



Ca	200	0.100					
CAL	2000	0.977476	0.800	< 500	CAL	<	1.200
b 1	202	0.000	0.000	<===	bl	<	0.004
b2	-	0.005	0.002	<===	b2	<	0.010
b 3	==	0.000	0.000	<=	b 3	<	0.004
Xq	===	0.077	0.050	<=	Xq	<	0.200
a21	=	1.164161	1.050	<=	a21	<	1.300
231	-	0 437114	0 300	/=	231	1	0 800

Performed by

Dage

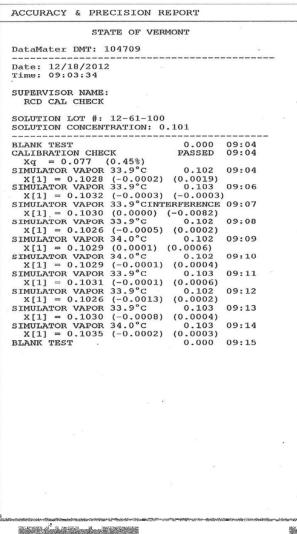
12/18/2012

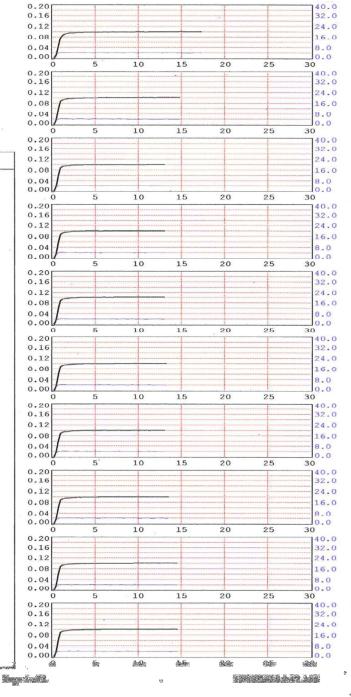
DMT Serial Number #104709

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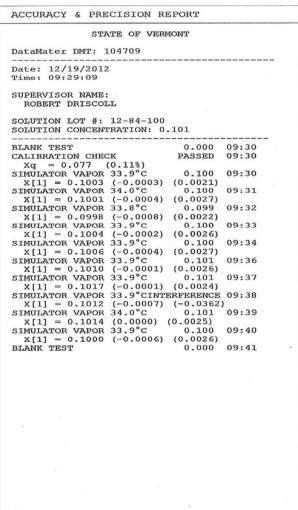
12/18/2012 8:59 AM

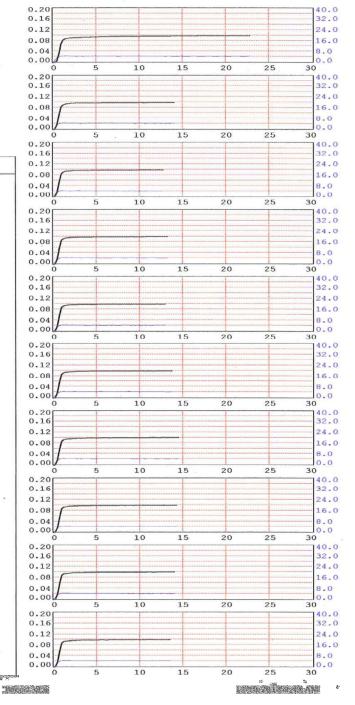




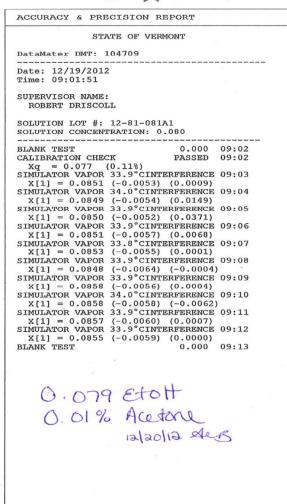




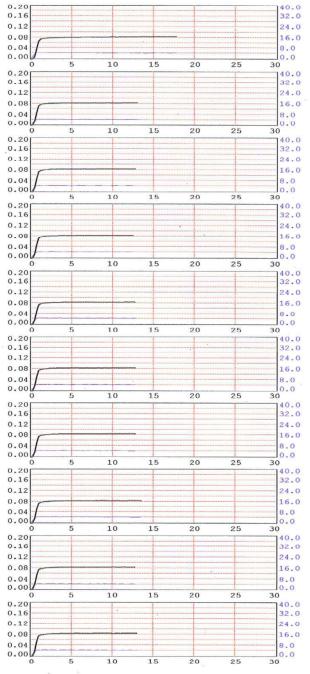








DMT Serial Number #104709



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12/19/2012 9:19 AM

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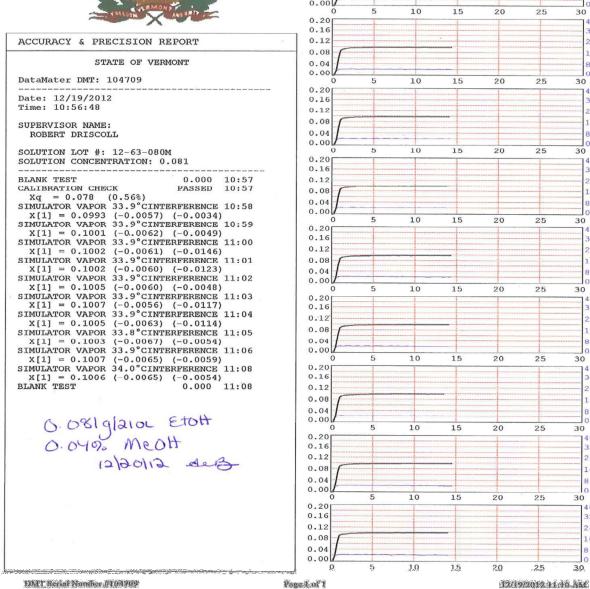
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